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## News Update

2009 - Issue No.63

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## Feature Topic

### [Leadership and Innovation in Governance Series - The Open Government Initiative in Sierra Leone](#)



[20/01/08] [Contributed with thanks by Yuichiro Sakai, Sierra Leone]. In Sierra Leone, UNDP is undertaking an innovative project in strengthening citizen participation and improving government accountability through the use of ICT tools. The Open Government Initiative aims to promote platforms through which the Government and the population directly interact, thereby enhancing transparency in the governance process and holding public officials to account for their actions on behalf of the population. The process also enables the Government to feel the pulse of the people and better understand their development needs and priorities. [more...](#)

## Practice News



### [Democratic Governance Knowledge Base \(K-Base\)](#)

[22/01/09] Earlier this month, Geraldine Frasier Moleketi, director of DGG/BDP/UNDP launched the Democratic Governance Knowledge Base (DG K-Base), which captures DGP-Net members' tacit knowledge and transforms it into institutional memory, a key objective of knowledge management. DG K-Base is a compendium of Consolidated Replies (CRs), Country Experiences, case studies, lessons learned, and good practices shared on the Democratic Governance Practice Network. The CRs include a summary of members' insights and solutions to critical development challenges. These are now hosted on DG K-Base in a user friendly format designed to make them available promptly and easily. The DG K-Base is searchable by region, country, and thematic area and accessible online (please use UNDP intranet credentials to log in). The DGP-Net Facilitation Team is also producing a CD to ensure offline access to DG K-Base. We also take this opportunity to congratulate DGP-net members and leadership for making their knowledge accessible so that we can serve our constituencies expeditiously and effectively. For queries, suggestions and comments on DG K-Base, please contact Knowledge Management Specialist, DGG/BDP, A.H. Monjurul Kabir at [monjurul.kabir@undp.org](mailto:monjurul.kabir@undp.org). [more...](#)

## **Human Rights for Development**



[20/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Patrick Van Weerelt, New York]. As part of celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNDP has launched the first issue of "Human Rights for Development". The bi-annual publication offers an overview of UNDP activities on Human Rights across the globe and highlights cross practice initiatives as well as innovative country and regional activities. [more...](#)



## **Reference Note: Democratic Governance and Leadership for Achieving MDGs**

[08/01/09] From 09 June to 31 July 2008, DGP-Net in collaboration with MDG-Net held an e-Discussion on Democratic Governance and Leadership for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The discussions underscored the relationship between growth and governance, linkages of governance reforms and MDG achievements and importance of participation, economic and social rights as well as social and political processes for the achievement of the MDGs. The critical needs of both 'innovation in leadership', and 'leadership in innovation', with 'leadership support to innovation' were also firmly endorsed. Members noted that the achievement of MDGs will require hundreds of thousands of leaders, champions, change agents, and innovators in every country and region. These champions and change agents emerge from the society following either an enabling environment for their rise or a desperate situation that pushes natural leaders to stand up for the rights of the people. This Reference Note; available English, French and Spanish; articulates the thoughts and experiences shared by network members and institutional partners in addressing the challenges of Democratic Governance and MDGs. [more...](#)

## **Network Happenings**

### **Results are In! 2009 DGP-Net e-Discussion Topics**



[18/01/09] DGP-Net would like to thank all members who participated in the "DGP-Net Member Satisfaction and Priority Poll" circulated last year. The poll was arranged to receive your feedback on our existing knowledge products and services; and also to determine the themes of e-discussion topics for 2009. Your prompt responses and insights helped us to understand how the network and knowledge services can be strengthened; and to determine which democratic governance issues were of interest to you. The topics suggested in the poll were identified primarily from two sources frequent network contributors' suggestions, and topics covered in network queries during 2008. Network members were given the option to vote for up to three topics, including a topic not included in the 11 options given. The polls were open from 25 November until 21 December 2008. Members showed a strong preference for 3 main topics: Ensuring Access to Justice for the Poor; Governance of Aid Effectiveness and Harmonization; and Maximizing E-governance for Public Service Delivery. These topics were closely followed by Parliamentary Development and Effectiveness; and Governance and Climate Change (an example of cross-practice collaboration). [more...](#)

### **Network Primer on Center of Governance Institutions**

[17/01/09] Public administration reform is a traditional UNDP support area and members recently responded with overwhelming responses full of insights, comparative experiences, examples of good practices, and, relevant resources to 2 queries received from Afghanistan on that topic. In the interest of institutional memory, we combined responses to these two related queries into a comprehensive Consolidated Reply. Responding to the members demands, we will launch a Network Primer on Center of Government Institutions in mid 2009. Members are welcome to join this wiki-based collaborative knowledge creation initiative. To register your interest and availability, please contact Knowledge Management Specialist, DGG/BDP, A.H. Monjurul Kabir at [monjurul.kabir@undp.org](mailto:monjurul.kabir@undp.org). [more...](#)

### **Latest Consolidated Replies**



[16/01/09] Consolidated Reply: Capacity Development for Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction / Nepal / Comparative Experiences; Revised Consolidated Reply: Afghanistan / Comparative Experiences / Support to Government and Center of Government Institutions; and Consolidated Reply: Kazakhstan / Comparative Experiences / Improving the Electoral Process. [more...](#)

### **Open Queries**

[10/01/09] To contribute to any of these open queries, or submit a new one, please send an email to [dgp-net@groups.undp.org](mailto:dgp-net@groups.undp.org). [more...](#)

## Announcements



### **MDG-Net e-Discussion: Global Public Health - 29 Jan - 26 Feb**

[07/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Renata Rubian, New York]. The MDG-Net is pleased to announce the launch of e-discussion on Global Public Health, organized jointly by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The outcome of this e-discussion will contribute to the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on Global Public Health, to be held in Geneva in July 2009 during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. The e-discussion will be split in two phases. The first will address "Strengthening health systems" (29 January - 11 February, 2009) and the second "Emerging and future health challenges" (12 February – 26 February, 2009). The AMR e-discussion background documents are available on the e-discussion web page. Non-MDG-Net members interested in this e-discussion should send a blank message to [join-mdg-amr-2009@groups.dev-nets.org](mailto:join-mdg-amr-2009@groups.dev-nets.org) [more...](#)

### **HuriTalk e-Discussion: What do Human Rights Principles mean for our Daily Development Work? - 02 February - 02 March**

[04/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Emilie Filmer Wilson, Oslo]. This HuriTalk e-discussion on "What do Human Rights Principles mean for our Daily Development Work?" will focus on 3 principles from the UN Common Understanding on Human Rights Based Approaches to Development (HRBA): accountability and the rule of law, participation and inclusion, and non-discrimination and equality. It will be held from 02 February to 2 March and split in 3 sections respectively on (i) key concepts (02 Feb- 09Feb); (ii) how these principles are applied in practice (09- 22 Feb); and (iii) the impact they have on development outcomes (23 Feb-02 March). Colleagues interested in joining the discussion, are invited to send an e-mail to: [emilie.filmer-wilson@undp.org](mailto:emilie.filmer-wilson@undp.org) [more...](#)

## Events



### **CoP Meeting: e-Governance and Access to Information**

[06/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Raul Zambrano, New York]. The second e-Governance and Access to Information Community of Practice (CoP) meeting was held in Hyderabad, India from 14-16 January 2009. 47 participants representing 35 programme countries, including national and regional governance focal points and a selected group of government officials, in addition to a core of e-governance practitioners were present. They shared initiatives, successes, challenges and ideas on the role of ICTs in addressing governance challenges at the national, regional and local levels. The meeting was held in Hyderabad to showcase the largest publicly funded e-governance programme in the world which aims to bring public services and information to the poor and the marginalized. The meeting revealed a community of practitioners that are passionate about their work and about ICTs. The participants agreed to produce short policy briefs highlighting the links between e-governance and the other Democratic Governance support areas; and a primer on inclusive e-governance focusing on service and information delivery to the poor and marginalized. Other issues to be considered include impact assessment and indicators for e-governance programmes; new and innovative public-private partnerships that foster sustainable e-governance programmes; as well as UNDP increase of e-governance expertise in the Regional Service Centers. [more...](#)

## Resources

### **Democratic Dialogue: A Handbook for Practitioners - UNDP**



[03/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Myriam Mendez Montalvo, New York]. The Handbook, a joint effort of CIDA, International IDEA, OAS and UNDP has received valuable input from a wider network of organizations. It has been designed to reflect current practice in the field of dialogue and to draw on concrete experiences of practitioners in various regions and of various actors involved in these processes. It seeks to consolidate emerging learning – both in terms of the conceptual framework supporting dialogue, and practical experiences in the design, facilitation and assessment of such processes on the ground. It also offers a comprehensive mapping of the process tools that can be used to support dialogue initiatives, thereby expanding the toolbox currently available to practitioners. The handbook is now available in French and

Spanish. [more...](#)

### **[Rights is the Answer - Social Watch Report 2008](#)**



[02/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Patrick Van Weerelt, New York]. The unusual combination of financial crisis, food crisis, energy and climate crisis requires a new approach based on human rights, argues the international Social Watch coalition in its 2008 report. The report documents how governments are falling short in their commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve gender equity through the testimony of civil society groups in 59 countries. Its main message is that the multiple crises currently affecting the world require a "rights-based approach" and provides examples on how the current financial architecture has ignored or openly violated those rights and triggered spiraling inequity all around the world. [more...](#)

### **[Democracy and Political Party Assistance in Post-Conflict Societies - NIMD](#)**



[02/01/09] [contributed with thanks by Diane Sheinberg, New York]. This publication from the Netherlands Institute of Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) provides a brief overview of the lessons learned in the field of democracy assistance in post-conflict societies in general and of political party assistance in particular. With this paper, This policy paper also presents some practical guidelines for engagement in post-conflict situations. [more...](#)



### **[2008 WPSR - People Matter: Civic Engagement in Public Governance - UNDESA](#)**

[01/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Lenni Montiel, New York]. The 2008 World Public Sector Report highlights the importance of civic engagement in public governance and by profiling several case studies, demonstrates how such practices gain the capacity to strengthen governance, make it more transparent and accountable and most importantly, contribute to developmental outcomes that are more sustainable, equitable and just. The Report also highlights several challenges and cautions that adequate attention must be given to the issues of power relations, institutional capacities of the government as well as the civil society organizations and adaptation of methodologies and strategies that suit the local conditions and other factors crucial to the introduction of successful civic engagement practices in public governance. [more...](#)

### **[Public Oversight of the Security Sector: A Handbook for Civil Society Organizations - UNDP](#)**

[01/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Anna Boelens, New York]. Many CSOs have facilitated security sector reform processes in transition and post-conflict states, yet much of their potential remains untapped. This Handbook provides structured guidance for civil society organisations (CSOs) on the role they can play in democratic security sector oversight. It is a resource handbook for grassroots organizations to help them monitor governmental security agencies. [more...](#)

## **Job Vacancies**

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### **[DG Vacancies and Consultancies](#)**

[20/01/09] To view the latest Vacancy and Consultancy announcements, please see [more...](#)

